Letters to the editor:

On uniform sentencing

Dear Editor:

Much has been said about Marshall Coleman's so-called uniform sentencing bill. As someone whose job it is to prosecute criminals, I am very concerned about the impression that Marshall Coleman is trying to create. He is attempting to get votes with a proposal that is not what he represents it to be.

First of all, when Mr. Coleman talks about his uniform sentencing bill, he should be talking in the plural. He has a number of versions of the same proposal and there is nothing uniform about the different versions. He has one version that would outlaw jury sentencing; he has another that would allow jury sentencing. He has a version that would have the sentence guidelines be determined by a panel appointed by the Governor. In another version, the sentence guidelines would be set by the legislature. He has one version where the defendant is allowed to appeal a guilty plea and another version where a guilty plea is not appealable. The only thing uniform about these proposals is that they are uniformly misleading to the public.

Secondly, Mr. Coleman says that his proposals would result in mandatory sentences. This is simply not true. No bill he had filed with Senate of Virginia contains a mandatory sentence provision. As a matter of fact, some of his proposals would result in lighter sentences. The first uniform sentencing bill that he championed provided that the maximum penalty for breaking into someone's home would be twelve months in jail. The present maximum for this behavior is twenty years in the penitentiary. Under this bill of Mr. Coleman's, the prisoner would not actually serve twelve months because the bill would allow each prisoner a good behavior credit of one day off for each day served. In reality, the maximum penalty would become six months!

One of the few things uniform about Mr. Coleman's sentencing bill is that they have a section called "mitigating factors." These "mitigating factors" are a defense lawyer's delight. Once you know the range of penalties you know only half the story because the sentence can be reduced if one of these "mitigating factors" applies. One "mitigating factor" is that the defendant didn't physically injure anybody. As a practical matter, this factor would apply to just about all burglaries, and to just about all drug sales. This is because it is very rare to find a burglary or a drug sale with a physical injury involved. Under Mr. Coleman's legislation, almost all burglary cases and drug cases would begin with a "mitigating factor" present.

The candidate that I support is serious about doing something about our crime problem. His comprehensive law enforcement plan recognizes we are talking about a complex problem. The plan Chuck Robb wrote and proposes looks into every facet of crime and punishment. This year we are faced with the choice of two candidates. One who has a serious approach to our crime problem--and the other who simply wants to politicize the issue.

Sincerely,
Robert F. Horan, Jr.,
Co-Chairman Commonwealth's Attorneys for Robb

On holding down taxes

Dear Editor:

There is a lot of talk about holding down taxes by the candidates running for Governor. But of the two candidates, Chuck Robb has the solid support of the General Assembly. That support is critical if the growth of state government is to be halted and taxes are to be held down. Legislator after legislator has noted his distrust of Marshall Coleman in the course of this campaign.

A candidate can make a lot of campaign promises about not raising taxes, but without the support of the General Assembly, he cannot lead the way to halt the growth of government. Indeed, it has been the Democratic legislators who have refused to increase taxes many times when the Republican Governors have proposed raising them.

Solid backing of the General Assembly makes Chuck Robb the only choice for a more efficient government.

Sincerely,
Donald C. Spiggle

Impressed with support

Dear Editor:

I've been impressed with the number of individuals that are supporting Chuck Robb in 1981 who have not supported a Democrat in many years. Apparently they just don't believe they can depend on Marshall Coleman. They must believe that Charles S. Robb is the most reliable and best prepared candidate to be our next Governor.

It doesn't surprise me when Democrats support Democrats and Republicans support Republicans -- but when a man like Roy Smith, who served as Chairman of Virginians for Dalton and Virginians for Warner in addition to working hard for Ronald Reagan, suddenly turns to a candidate in the other party, I take notice. Roy Smith leads a group for Chuck Robb, this year known as Virginians for Robb. These are men who've supported John Dalton, John Warner and Ronald Reagan. I'll follow their lead.

Sincerely,
J. Franklin Vaughan

Thanks race workers

Editor

I would like to thank everyone who worked on the Joe Sweeney 10K Classic, during the Appomattox Railroad Festival. Your work made this one of the better races we have had.

I would like to especially thank the sponsor, The Farmers National Bank, for making the race possible.

Thanks to Wilbun's Supermarket, Lawson Ford, and Moses Motor Co. for their help. Also thanks to the Appomattox County Sheriffs Dept., Appomattox Town Police, Virginia State Police, Appomattox County Rescue Squad, all the individuals who did such a good job working the race, and the School Board for the use of the high school.

Ronnie Stevens
Race Chairman

Community benefit

Letter To The Editor:

Very seldom does anything happen in a community that affects and benefits every person in that community. On October 27, 1981 there is such an event.

Concord Elementary P.T.A. is presenting a Community Services Fair that will help and inform each person in our area in a special way.

This program is designed to help anyone of any age or economic condition. You do not have to have small children to attend this meeting, nor do you have to belong to the P.T.A.

Are you a single parent who would like to meet other single parents to try to make coping easier? Do you have questions on family planning? Have you ever wondered how to join Big Brothers/Big Sisters? Would you like to join with other retired persons in doing volunteer work? Would you know where to turn if you were a battered wife?

Our program is a FAIR type format with tables set up where representatives of more than a dozen area associations and services will do their best to help YOU.

We will have a thirty minute demonstration on emergency first aid given by the Concord Rescue Squad's First Aid Team who recently won first place in state wide competition and will represent Virginia in national competition later in the year.

Our program is open to the public at no charge and begins at 7:30, October 27. Everyone who attends will go home more informed and with the help they may need to make their lives easier and more fulfilling.

Vice-president, Concord P.T.A.
Program Chairman
Carolyn S. Kirby

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Women's World Day set

On November 2 the Woman's Missionary Union of Liberty Baptist Church will observe Women's World Day of Prayer at 12 noon with a covered dish luncheon meeting to be followed with a brief program and prayer for missions throughout the world.

Women from all community churches are cordially invited to attend and bring a covered dish.

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Bible & Daily Living

God's greatest gift

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
GOD'S GREATEST GIFT
Lesson for October 25, 1981
Bible Study Passage - John 3:3, 16-21

Introduction

The phrases "new birth" and "born again" have become popular expressions in recent years to describe the experience of salvation in Christ. Such phrases are not new, however. Jesus first used them in warning persons to the kingdom of God. The phrases used to describe new life in Christ are not as important as the act itself, the choosing of Christ over self.

Paul describes for us this dramatic change in his Corinthian letter: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

To be "born again" implies that one is now a resident of the kingdom of God due to a radical change of heart and mind. The payoff in such a radical change of one's life and direction is to become a son or daughter of God.

To become a child of God is to receive in his loving acceptance and affirmation. In God's sight we are truly OK people. Such knowledge frees us to become all that we are capable of becoming through the help of Christ.

This week we look at the encounter Jesus had with Nicodemus concerning new birth.

The Night Caller [John 3:1-2]

Nicodemus was a "ruler of the Jews" - held a respectable position of power and influence. He was obviously a well-heeled person who seriously considered how God could reveal himself in mysterious ways. He was a struggling pilgrim who searched for truth and light. When he heard and saw the activities of Jesus, he did not dismiss Jesus as a trickster or entertainer. He sensed something extremely powerful. So he goes at night to investigate.

When Nicodemus goes to Jesus, he goes with a sense of both affirmation and curiosity. He refers to Jesus as "rabbi" or "teacher," and he wants to know how Jesus is able to perform his miracles.

Much has been conjectured as to why Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Some have said he did so to hide his interest from his fellow Jews, or to serve as a spokesperson for a group, or simply because serious conversations and inquiries took place only at the end of the day.

The issue over Nicodemus' coming at night is not nearly as crucial as to why he was coming at all. Nicodemus says, "...for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him."

The Good Master Speaks [John 3:3-8]

Nicodemus was basically interested in the gift of eternal life. Somehow Nicodemus did not fully comprehend the meaning of Jesus' words. Some of which Jesus was saying was not foreign to Nicodemus, for the scriptures he knew only too well gave hint of "new birth" or "new creature."

"Create in me a clean heart, O God..." must have been familiar to Nicodemus.

Jesus then begins to explain through illustration the meaning of new birth and those born of the spirit. Nicodemus surely had a little trouble internalizing the words of Jesus, for here was a man whose religious roots ran deep, whose faith was as natural as breathing. Yet there is something missing.

The Important Question [John 3:9-15]

Nicodemus responds to Jesus, "How can these things be?" He does not debate Jesus, but he wants to know more concerning how such a miracle of rebirth can take place. Nicodemus is at once and the same time stumped and amazed at Jesus' response. The idea that God could reshape the bent of one's life, to alter the pilgrim's direction, to break into one's life and present new dimensions of vision is amazing to Nicodemus.

Humanity's "broken record" could be mended by the grace and abundant gift of God through Jesus Christ. The gift of eternal life is a gift that can be enjoyed now and not simply in the hereafter. Everything available to us comes from one source, namely, God. Through his loving gift we receive acceptance, affirmation, love, joy, and life both abundant and eternal.

The Greatest Gift[John3:16-17]

God's loving gift is that of Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God. The gift of the Savior becomes our gift when we respond in faith and obedience. Christ comes into our life and opens the door to newness and wholeness. The burdens of sin are lifted through his death and resurrection.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital, Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

(Based on copyrighted outlines produced by the Committee on the Uniform Series, and used by permission.)

Concord festival planned

Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Concord will hold its eight annual Fall Festival at the Church on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Festivities will get underway at 9:30 a.m. with a parade featuring beauty queens, spindle spinners, antique cars, championship horses, a variety of floats and other attractions.

Games, recreation, live entertainment and arts and crafts exhibitions will be featured throughout the day. In addition, flea market items will be offered for sale at the festival.

Food, including barbecued pork and chicken, hot dogs, drinks, homemade cakes, pies and rolls, jams, jellies and pickles, will be served from 10 a.m. to dark during the festival.

There will also be an apple butter display, and interested persons will be able to see how apple butter is made -- and take some home if they wish -- at the festival.

Proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Charlean Carson Organ Fund.

Times-Virginian

Church News

Pancake supper set

The United Methodist Men of the Memorial United Methodist Church will have a Pancake Supper on October 23 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., adults $2.50 and children $1.50.

Proceeds will go to the Virginia United Methodist Agency for the Retarded.

Fund drive scheduled

The Appomattox Seventh Day Adventist Church will be conducting it's 73rd Annual Fund Raising Drive for the Community Service Program in the next few months.

Emergency disaster relief work, health clinics, and stop smoking sessions area few of the services the Adventists offer.

The 3.5 million member denomination last year assisted 11,310,297 persons and gave away 18,559,265 articles of clothing worldwide. The cash and food given to needy individuals last year was valued at $10,815,345.

All during the year the church members contribute to these projects. They, therefore, carry approximately 90 percent of the financial load. It is the last ten percent given by friends at this time that provides the boost that the Seventh Day Adventist Church needs.

Those fund drive volunteers who will be knocking on doors can be identified as Adventist solicitors by the colorful These Times leaflets they hand out to all they approach.

When the unpaid solicitors invite you to help they'll be echoing the hopes of 100 million people who go to bed hungry every night. When a solicitor calls, please be as generous as possible.

Women's World Day set

On November 2, the Woman's Missionary Union of Liberty Baptist Church will observe Women's World Day of Prayer at 12:00 noon with a covered dish luncheon meeting to be followed with a brief program and prayer for missions throughout the world.

Women from all community churches are cordially invited to attend and bring a covered dish.

Church slates celebration

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church will celebrate more than 200 years of Sunday School classes Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.

Anyone who ever attended Sunday School at the church is asked to attend the special service. The celebration is part of a national effort to promote the weekly Bible Study effort through the largest organization of the local church.

It is also part of the national 8, 5 x 35 effort to enroll an additional 1.2 million persons in Sunday Schools by September, 1985.

Liberty Chapel Baptist Church invites all unenrolled persons to attend the Sunday School. The church is located on RFD 3, Appomattox.

New Hope to present film on Oct. 31

New Hope Baptist Church will present The Touch Of The Master's Hand, Saturday, October 31 at 8 p.m.

The film is based on a song with the same title and takes place on an old english estate. Everyone is invited to attend the film being shown in the fellowship hall of New Hope.

Free popcorn and drink will also be served before the film.

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P215/75R14	$101.35	$76.00	$2.73
P205/75R15	$100.30	$75.20	$2.62
P215/75R15	$104.50	$78.35	$2.73
P225/75R15	$108.00	$81.00	$2.90
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